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STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS TO THE OSCE AT THE 984th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

20 February 2014

Regarding the second report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belarus on human rights

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the OSCE Permanent Council about the second report prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on "The Most Resonant Human Rights Violations in Certain Countries 2013".

Russian- and English-language versions of the document have been posted on the Belarusian Foreign Ministry's website. Among other things, the report is designed to show the invalidity of the biased and selective approach of certain countries in endeavouring to monopolize, for political reasons, the right to assess the human rights situation in different parts of the world.

We believe that human rights issues should not be used as a political instrument to exert pressure on particular countries, and we advocate a constructive and mutually respectful dialogue in this area.

We hope that the report will also be used by participating States and by the relevant OSCE institutions for a comprehensive, objective and impartial assessment of the human rights situation throughout the OSCE area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.